

# HALE COUNTY

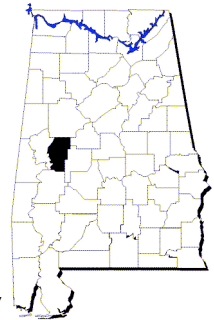
## Honorable William A. Ryan

Hale County Courthouse  
1001 Main St, Suite 36A  
Greensboro, AL 36744  
(334) 624-8563

Ashvin Parikh  
Diane Banks  
Mayor Morrison  
Mike Fuller  
Rita Harless  
Stephen Moore  
Mayor Johnnie B. Washington  
Anne Bailey  
Clinton Brasfield  
Eva Bryant-Green  
Joyce Jackson  
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Barbara Smith  
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Tracie Bates  
Barron Lankster  
Jack Martin  
Rasheda McCalpine  
Denise Shirley  
Larry Johnson  
Niko Phillips



Vista Volunteer: Natosha Mixon

## Council Priorities

- 1. Effective parental involvement and mentoring.**
- 2. Reduce in number of children using drugs and alcohol.**
- 3. Increase the number of mental health beds and residential mental health facilities.**

# Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

## Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### **Support and expand existing programs providing comprehensive screenings for pre-school children**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop and provide training to increase the awareness of the value of screenings.
- 2) Identify and meet with agencies currently conducting screenings.
- 3) Coordinate with agencies to implement plans to increase the number of children being screened.

### **Improve quality childcare access and availability**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Increase public awareness of quality childcare.
- 2) Encourage licensing of all daycare centers and providers.
- 3) Work with state school readiness programs to enable the childcare center/provider to offer curriculums that will prepare children for kindergarten.

## Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

### **Promote the awareness of existing job readiness resources in the community**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Align partners to participate in community education.
- 2) Target and secure church and other outreach locations in the community.
- 3) Recruit volunteers for a train-the-trainer model to sustain community relationships.

### **Enhance current relationships that provide food, shelter, clothing, and housing**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Work with community agencies such as Hale County Housing Center for housing repairs and housing.
- 2) Create connections between agencies of safety measures in Hale County.

## **Expand job placement and job readiness training**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Promote awareness of existing programs.
- 2) Promote a financial management plan county wide.
- 3) Develop and support relationships between industry and vocational training in Hale County.
- 4) Seek and obtain funding for job readiness/preparation programs.

## **Education**

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

## **Increase the number of educational and/or educational opportunities for at-risk youth**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Provide math intervention personnel and/or strategies at all Hale County Schools.
- 2) Expand Services provided through alternative approaches toward 6-12 education.

## **Increase the number of students who enroll into post secondary programs of military**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Increase the number of leadership opportunities available to students.
- 2) Implement extended year programs at all senior high schools for credit recovery and/or preparation for the exit exam.
- 3) Increase the number of scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors.

## **Decrease the teen pregnancy rate in Hale County**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Train teachers and teen leaders at all high schools on abstinence curriculum to reach elementary school students.
- 2) Continue to support teachers and educators in implementing relationship and pregnancy prevention programs at the high school level.

## **Health**

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

## **Reduce the incidence of obesity related illness in children (diabetes, hypertension, etc.)**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Support school activities in enforcing healthy meals and snacks.
- 2) Promote exercise and healthy eating habits.
- 3) Participate in wellness and prevention activities in local health fairs.
- 4) Encourage participation in WIC for children birth to five.

## **Improve the dental health of our children**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Increase the awareness of dental health services.
- 2) Educate parents that dental health is a billable Medicaid benefit.
- 3) Advocate participation in health fairs by dental health providers.

## **To eliminate "Lack of Transportation" as a barrier to health care**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Continue to educate the community of the availability of West Alabama Public Transportation and Kid-One services.

## **Parent Involvement Skills**

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

## **Increase the knowledge of activities available to children and parents**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Increase public awareness of the need for parent involvement in the lives of children.
- 2) Seek funding for activities/recreation center for Hale County to house positive activities for families.

## **Identify children with special needs earlier and provide support training for parents**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Review similar intervention programs available in the area for collaborations.
- 2) Coordinate with youth services to implement new services.

## **Increase the number of parenting classes in Hale County**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Coordinate with faith-based organizations for teaching parenting skills. Obtain parent project for Hale County. Work with regional parent project programs for the Hale County CPC.
- 2) Develop an intervention plan for early elementary school children and seek funding for programs.
- 3) Seek funding for after-school and summer activities center for families in Hale County.

## **Safety**

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

## **Reduce the availability of drugs and alcohol to children**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop programs to educate children and adults about the trends in drug use.
- 2) Develop a drug-free coalition.
- 3) Pursue funding for a county resource officer.

## **Reduce the number of children without proper adult supervision**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop more comprehensive after-school and summer recreation programs.
- 2) Develop more after-school and community programs for youth.
- 3) Provide more organized activities for school-aged children after school and in the summer hours.

## **Increase awareness of domestic violence**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Provide education to parents and children about domestic violence.
- 2) Provide access numbers to shelters and counseling.
- 3) Seek funding for local counseling through mental HERO, DHR, and/or Alabama Coalition against Domestic Violence.

# **Policy Recommendations**

- Increase the number of mental health beds and residential mental health facilities.
- Provide information to ensure parents know the value of adequate health and dental care for the children of Hale County.
- Review local sources providing after-school, nighttime, and weekend care for children.
- Assist local committees through education and early detection.
- Communicate more with agency representatives to ensure that proper information and referrals are given to parents of Hale County children.
- Effective parental involvement and mentoring.
- Reduce number of children using drugs and alcohol.
- Continue to fund Medicaid and All-kids.
- Continue funding for transportation (Kid One Program and others).
- Increase availability of material and programs available to parents concerning childhood obesity and other eating disorders.